

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, usually airs Thursdays at 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN

television. On this week's edition, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey hosts the entire show to give an inside look at the Operation Northern Watch mission and its people.

News briefs

Wing down days

Col. Greg Ihde, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, recently approved holiday and family days. They are:

- Veteran's Day, Monday.
- Thanksgiving, Nov. 22.
- Family day, Nov. 23.
- Family day, Dec. 24.
- Christmas, Dec. 25.
- Family day, Dec. 31.
- New Year's day, Jan. 1.

People are reminded to check with their supervisors about taking these days off.

Credit union closure

The Service Credit Union closes Monday in observance of Veteran's Day. It resumes normal operating hours Tuesday.

CGOC conference

The Spangdahlem Company Grade Officers' Council invites all company grade officers to attend the U.S. Air Forces in Europe CGOC Conference Nov. 17-19 in the Spangdahlem Air Base Officer's Club.

The theme is "Forging Intrepid Leaders: Tempered For Today And Tomorrow." Gen. Gregory Martin, USAFE commander, will be speaking to company grade officers from throughout the command on leadership challenges and expectations.

Maj. Gen. Robert Dierker, assistant chief of staff, Operations Division, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, and director of operations for Joint Forge and Joint Guardian, Mons, Belgium, will also be speaking on airmen's role in North Atlantic Treaty Organization and United Nation operating theaters.

Any company grade officers who want additional information or wish to attend can contact Capt. Shawn Campbell via the global e-mail.

Mailing deadlines

The U.S. Postal Service issued this year's mailing deadlines. People mailing letters and

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Eifel Times

Vol. 35, Issue 39

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Nov. 9, 2001

Staff Sgts. Marcus Benjamin (left), Dante Pawa and Terry Freeman (far right), 52nd Medical Group, demonstrate decontaminating procedures on a dummy to Lt. Gen. Paul K. Carlton Jr., Air Force surgeon general (center right), and Col. Thomas J. Loftus, U.S. Air Forces in Europe surgeon general. Carlton toured the medical facilities at Spangdahlem Air Base and the Bitburg Annex Oct. 23. During the visit, he learned more about the medical group's participation in areas such as the Project Athena program and the Spangdahlem Medical Annual Readiness Testing.

Staff Sgt. Esperanza Berrios

AF surgeon general visits Team Eifel

Service's top medic impressed with medical programs offered here

By Staff Sgt. Cindy York
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

In an effort to learn more about what's going on at U.S. Air Forces in Europe hospitals, Lt. Gen. Paul K. Carlton Jr., Air Force surgeon general, visited Spangdahlem Air Base and the Bitburg Annex medical facilities recently.

The general was mostly interested in the Project Athena discussion - a program that teams up a stateside hospital with one overseas to make use of certain specialties on a 90-day loan program. The project began here Aug. 1 and so far, Carlton said it's going well.

During the one-day visit, the 52nd Medical Group

entertained the Air Force's top medic by introducing him to the new Spangdahlem Medical Annual Readiness Testing program.

"A friend of mine tried to (start the same program) at another base, but he had no wing support. The wing support has made the program work at Spangdahlem," Carlton said. "I think this is the way we should do it - all in one day - to make it so easy. It just makes great sense."

With increasing deployments around the military right now, Carlton said the affect on the medical community - and the care they provide - should be minimal.

"When we go to an unusual area, clearly, we have to know global medicine and must be able to integrate with local host nation facilities or stand alone, as is appropriate.

"It puts a strain on us in a deployed setting that we've not experienced before. I think it will change our thinking a bit.

See Visit, Page 4

13 Team Eifel senior master sergeants earn promotion

Air Force announces 22-percent selection; highest in 15 years

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — More than 22 percent of eligible senior master sergeants will be promoted to the Air Force's highest enlisted rank

throughout the next year.

Spangdahlem Air Base had 13 selectees, for a 22.41 percent promotion rate.

This percentage, the result of the 01E9 promotion board which was released Wednesday, is about an eight-point increase from the previous year, and the highest rate of chief master sergeant selectees since 1986.

Team Eifel's newest chief selectees are

senior master sergeants:

Steven L. Lage, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron.

Cari A. Kent, John N. McNulty and Wayne A. Weyrauch, 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron (Provisional).

Cris P. Kahle, 52nd Operations Support Squadron.

Marie Carter-Cherry and John C. Dittig,

52nd Medical Support Squadron.

Thomas M. Teasdale, 23rd Fighter Squadron.

Michael A. Murray, 606th Air Control Squadron.

William S. Hubbart, 752nd Munitions Support Squadron, Volkel Air Base, the

See Chief, Page 2

Accidents

By Staff Sgt. Edward D. Paxton
52nd Security Forces Squadron
Reports and Analysis

Team Eifel members experienced 23 vehicle accidents in the past two weeks, one of which was major.

The major accident took place on L-50 between Dreis and Bruch. In the investigation, the Wittlich Polizei found that a family member closed her eyes, swerved to the right shoulder and hit an embankment, causing the vehicle to roll several times. She sustained minor cuts to her right hand and the vehicle was totaled.

The 22 minor vehicle accidents involved:

- Three from driving too fast for road conditions.
 - Four from improper backing.
 - 12 from inattentive driving.
 - Two animal strikes.
 - One from driving under the influence of alcohol.
- In addition, 127 citations were issued.

The 52nd Security Forces Squadron reminds Team Eifel drivers about driving safety in the coming winter months. Operators need to pay attention to the road conditions in accordance with Spangdahlem Air Base Instruction 31-204.

Road conditions will be broadcast through Giant Voice, radio and television. All U.S. Army Europe-plated and government vehicles must adhere to the following road conditions:

- Green: Normal operation for all vehicles.
- Amber: Road conditions are hazardous. Exercise caution due to slush, snow, ice patches or decreased visibility.
- Red: Road conditions are extremely hazardous. Drive only if you must and exercise extreme caution. GOVs should not be operated unless an actual emergency or mission requirements exists.
- Black: Driving cannot be conducted safely. Vehicles should only be operated in extreme emergencies (life threatening only).

Briefs

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packages to the United States for the holidays should ensure they adhere to the following deadlines:

- SAM parcels -- Nov. 20
 - Priority parcels, first class letters and cards -- Dec. 11
 - Express mail -- Dec. 18
- For details, call the Spangdahlem Air Base Post Office at 452-6038.

Senior NCOs needed

The Air Force is looking for senior NCOs with documented outstanding duty performance in supervisory, managerial and leadership positions to serve as Promotion Fitness Examination subject-matter experts.

Interested people should be at least a senior master sergeant select and must not have a spouse or immediate family member below the rank of master sergeant. Senior NCO academy, or sister service equivalent, must have been completed.

People in any Air Force specialty are welcome to apply; however, preference is given to those in technical or operational career fields.

Applicants must be able to go TDY to the Air Force Occupational Measurement Squadron at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, from March 12-April 12, April 23-May 24 and June 4-July 5. Travel and per diem is paid by AFOMS. For more information, call Master Sgt. Phillip Vaughn at 452-6725 or 452-6344.

Yellow recycling bags

People are reminded that yellow recycling bags are for product packaging materials only. They are not to be used to

dispose of trash, clothes, yard waste, paper or other materials. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Andy Harper at 452-5124.

AFSA elections

The Air Force Sergeants' Association holds elections for officers Nov. 28 at the Spang Club at 11:30 a.m. Nominations should be sent to Staff Sgts. Nancy Barron-Palumbo or Kimberly Cook via the global e-mail.

Logistics Officers Association

The 52nd Fighter Wing Logistics Officers Association meets Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the Spang Club.

Value added tax forms

Beginning Jan. 1, the current German Mark VAT forms will be replaced with the new Euro VAT forms. Valid DM VAT forms can be modified with the Euro symbol at the VAT office at Spangdahlem Air Base or the Bitburg Annex.

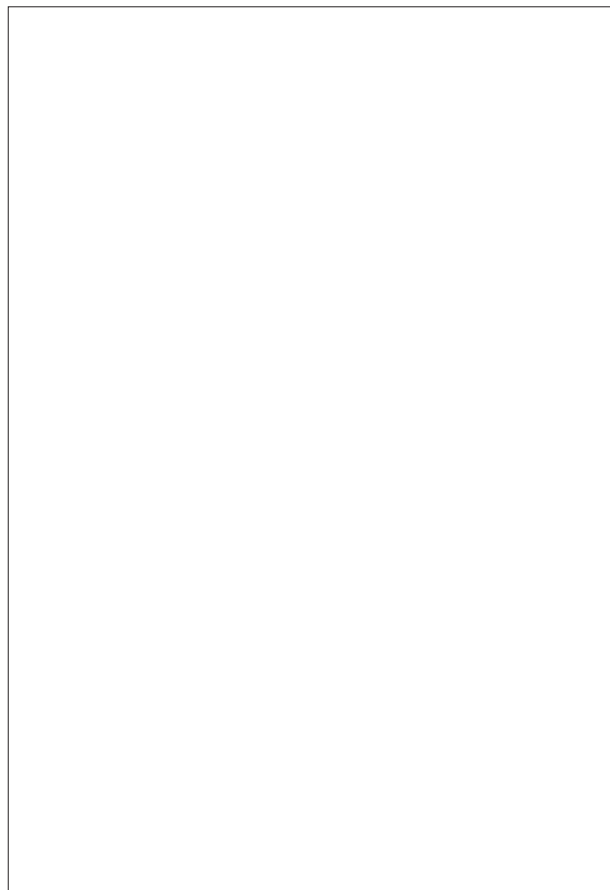
Officials remind people the forms are only accepted in Germany -- they are not the European VAT forms, which are available at Heidelberg and Ramstein Air Base. For more information, call Dane Chandler at 452-6992.

Commissary tour

The 52nd Medical Group nutritional medicine flight sponsors a commissary tour Thursday from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the Bitburg Commissary.

Learn to shop for nutritional foods or just take a closer look at the commissary.

For more information or to reserve a space, call Senior Airman Sergio Berrios at 452-3312 or 06561-693312.



Staff Sgt. Karen Z. Silcott

Team work

Dr. Med D. Stiemer, far right, shows Senior Airman Thomas P. Wiley 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, what German paramedics carry to on-scene emergencies. Spangdahlem Air Base fire department troops and the German Red Cross periodically train together. The training helps both teams understand what each team's capabilities are and how they can work together more effectively.

Chief

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Netherlands.

Cathleen A. Hooks, 852nd Munitions Support Squadron, Buechel Air Base, Germany.

Jeffrey E. Branch and David A. Creech, NATO Air Base (AWACS) Geilenkirchen, Germany.

Beginning Jan. 1, 635 people out of the 2,879 eligible will sew on their new stripes throughout the year. This represents a selection rate of 22.06 percent — 9.06 percent above the total objective plan for career airmen personnel minimum promotion rate objective of 13 percent.

Air Force officials attributed the surge in promotions to a projected rise in overall end-strength, and a rise in the number of projected retirements in fiscal 2002 because of the increased pool of chief master sergeants who are retirement eligible.

"The selection rate is great news for

these new chief master sergeant selects and for the Air Force," Air Force Personnel Center officials said. "The best have clearly risen to the top, and will take on tremendous leadership challenges for the future."

The average score for those selected was 652.23, with an average time in grade and time in service of 3.54 and 21.86 years respectively. The average score was based on the following point averages:

- 135 for enlisted performance reports;
- 28.24 for time in grade;
- 22.76 for time in service;
- 23.12 for decorations;
- 69.73 for U.S. Air Force supervisory examination;
- 373.38 for board score.

The Chief Master Sergeant Evaluation Board convened recently to evaluate individual records of senior master sergeants eligible for promotion. The list of selections is posted on the AFPC Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom>.

Upgrades to government leased housing coming soon

Lease renewal negotiations with local contractors open door for variety of projects for residents of Speicher, Herforst, Binsfeld housing

Compiled from staff reports

Many people living in government-leased housing units will see a variety of improvement projects taking place in the early part of 2002.

As part of lease renewal negotiations for the GLHs in Speicher, Herforst and Binsfeld, the 52nd Fighter Wing and local contractors have drafted an agreement on a variety of improvements that should be done to the units. The new lease agreement is currently awaiting final approval by Congress.

"We identified everything we possibly could to ensure they (housing units) are not only good now, but are also good five years down the road," said Mary Lopez, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron housing flight

director. "Our primary focus was on most of the older units. But the newer ones will have a lot of improvements also."

For Speicher buildings 121 through 217 and all Binsfeld units, improvements awaiting approval include: new playground equipment; fences around the ball fields; improved change of occupancy maintenance to include paint; replacement of original carpet; new light fixtures in living/dining areas; installation of shower cabinets; enlarge patios; maintenance or replacement of privacy fences; construction of new trash collection points; and routine clean up after every pick up.

While not required, the owners of the Binsfeld units have already started replacing the light fixtures in the living/dining areas.

For Speicher buildings 1 through 113 and all Herforst units, improvements awaiting approval include: new playground equipment; light dimmers; new light fixtures in the living/dining area; stabilize or exchange shelving; enlarge patios; install privacy fences for townhouse units;

repair/replace sidewalks; replace or repair floor tiles; complete dishwasher connections; install mirrored medicine cabinets and at least one shower partition or shower door; and increase hot water capacity in the four-plex units.

Once approved, most of the improvements should be completed by summer 2002.

Painting and carpet replacement is planned to be accomplished during change of occupancy. Patio enlargements, shower partitions and shower doors will be completed within the next two years.

"Quality of life and safety were our guiding factors," Lopez said.

Improvement requirements were based on many factors including the type and number of maintenance calls made to each unit's house meister.

Special inspections were also conducted by the housing flight, safety office and various other wing organizations.

The 52nd FW has approximately 500 government-leased housing units in the local

area. The GLH's were built in the 1980s based on the wing's specifications. However, the GLHs were built and are owned by local commercial contractors.

Because the units are owned by commercial contractors, Lopez pointed out that it is not uncommon for a complex to be sold to a different owner.

She went on to explain that residents have nothing to fear when this happens. When units are sold, the existing government contract still remains in effect.

However, just because the GLHs sometimes change hands does not mean that potential buyers should just be showing up at residents' doors for a tour.

"If residents get requests for tours of their living quarters they need to refer the potential buyers to the housing flight so proper arrangements can be made," Lopez said.

For additional information on the upgrade progress or other GLH issues, call Mary Lopez at the housing flight at 452-6560.

Local public health flight talks about anthrax

By Capt. John M. Hatfield
52nd Medical Group Public Health Flight

Numerous news reports of anthrax cases in the United States, combined with rumors of potential overseas terrorist attacks, have many military members and their families rightfully concerned.

Nevertheless, people should not panic, but rather use common sense, if they come across a suspicious substance. If you see a powdery, white substance in a public place, evaluate the situation and the location.

Are you in the gym; could it be foot powder? Are you in the bathroom in an area where diapers are changed? In a waffle house? Amsterdam? It is crucial to properly analyze the circumstances of a situation before reacting. If, after evaluating the situation, it still appears to be precarious, immediately contact security forces.

Anthrax is an acute infectious disease caused by spore forming bacteria, which can persist in the environment for decades, even under harsh conditions. Historically, humans have typically contracted the disease incidentally while handling contaminated wool, hides, leather or hair products from infected animals.

However, clearly the cases surfacing in the United States are due to intentional exposures; therefore, the substance is being used as a biological weapon. Fortunately, the disease is not contagious from person to person.

Anthrax infections can occur in three forms: cutaneous (skin), gastrointestinal and inhalation.

Cutaneous anthrax

About 95 percent of anthrax infections occur when the bacterium enters a cut or abrasion on the skin. Symptoms of cutaneous anthrax begin with a raised, itchy bump that resembles an insect bite, but soon turns into a painless ulcer, about one to three centimeters in diameter, usually with a black spot in the middle. This form of the disease responds well to antibiotics and is seldom fatal unless left untreated.

Intestinal anthrax

The intestinal form of anthrax may follow the consumption of poorly cooked, contaminated food and is

characterized by nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting and fever, followed by abdominal pains, vomiting of blood and severe diarrhea. This form of the disease is relatively rare and requires prompt treatment with antibiotics.

Inhalation anthrax

The most lethal form of anthrax is inhalation anthrax. For anthrax to be effective as a biologic weapon, it must be aerosolized into very small particles. This is difficult to do and requires a great deal of technical skill and special equipment. If approximately 8,000 to 40,000 spores of the bacteria are inhaled, life-threatening lung infections, initially resembling a common cold, can occur.

Aggressive antibiotic therapy before the onset of symptoms is very effective. Prompt recognition of exposure and treatment is essential. In the current situation of intentional anthrax distribution, doxycycline and ciprofloxacin are the recommended antibiotics for post exposure prophylaxis.

People should watch for the following symptoms:

- Fever (temperature greater than 100 F).
- Flu-like symptoms (cough, fatigue, muscle aches), nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
- A sore, especially on the face, arms or hands.

People should contact their provider immediately if they suspect they may have contracted the disease.

Postal precautions

One means of protection is to keep vigilant about looking for possible credible threats. Some characteristics of suspicious packages and envelopes include the following:

Inappropriate or unusual labeling, such as:

- Excessive postage.
- Handwritten or poorly typed addresses.
- Misspellings of common words.
- Strange return address or no return address.
- Incorrect titles or title without a name.
- Not addressed to a specific person.
- Marked with restrictions, such as "Personal,"

"Confidential" or "Do not X-ray".

- Marked with any threatening language.
- Postmarked from a city or state that does not match the return address.
- Unusual appearance, such as:
 - Powdery substance felt through or appearing on the package or envelope.
 - Oily stains, discolorations or odor.
 - Lopsided or uneven envelope.
 - Excessive packaging material such as masking tape, string, etc.

What to do

People who believe they are holding a suspicious package or envelope:

- Do not shake or empty the contents.
 - Do not carry the package or envelope, show it to others or allow others to examine it.
 - Put the package or envelope down on a stable surface; do not sniff, touch, taste or look closely at it or at any contents that may have spilled.
 - Alert others in the area about the suspicious package or envelope. Leave the area, close any doors and take actions to prevent others from entering the area. If there is one, shut off the ventilation system. Remain in place (outside the area where exposure took place) until response team members arrive.
 - Wash hands with soap and water to prevent spreading potentially infectious material to face or skin.
 - Call security forces at 452-6666 or 0656561-6666.
 - If possible, create a list of people who were in the room or area when this suspicious letter or package was recognized and a list of people who also may have handled this package or letter. Give this list to both security forces and the fire department when they respond to the incident.
- For more information, check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at www.bt.cdc.gov, the U.S. Postal Service Web site at www.usps.com or call the public health flight at 452-8308 or 06565-958308.

Visit

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Trying to figure out how to do a better job is a big part of our discussion right now," he said.

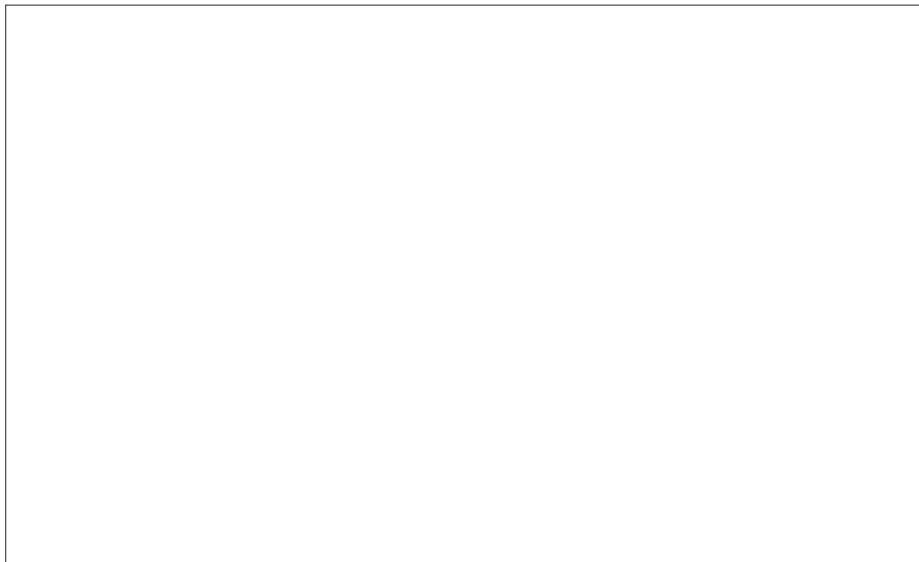
Carlton said the home station care shouldn't be affected - for active duty, their families or retirees.

"If there are critical areas, we'll put reservists and the guard on volunteer status," he said. "We feel a very strong obligation to our families and to our retirees that we keep up the healthcare. It will probably be a mosaic, in terms of civilians, guard and reserves and active duty, but we have an obligation and we will fulfill it."

Overall, Carlton was impressed with the medical programs in the Eifel and wanted to assure the Spangdahlem AB community he has the utmost confidence in the medical group here.

"Your medics are doing a superb job. The SMART program, the mobile dental van, the focus on the customer to really take care of them, the Project Athena discussion - all of those are designed to give excellent service to the community.

"(We need to) make sure that we're sensitive, make sure that we're responsive and make sure that we give the highest quality of care that we can."



Courtesy photo

LeaveWeb

Senior Airman Natisha Waller, 52nd Comptroller Squadron, uses LeaveWeb to process the wing's first automated paperless leave request. LeaveWeb provides a more efficient and accurate method of processing military leave, without placing additional work on those involved with the process. Leave can be requested from any computer connected to the base Internet. For more information, call the finance office at 452-5980.

52nd Fighter Wing hands out awards, money

52nd Fighter Wing officials announced recent individual award winners and achievements in leadership, professionalism and innovation.

52nd FW third quarter awards

■ Capt. Jill Metzger, 52nd Mission Support Squadron, company grade officer
 ■ Master Sgt. William Brown, 52nd Component Repair Squadron, senior NCO
 ■ Staff Sgt. William J. Crawford, 52nd Security Forces Squadron, NCO
 ■ Senior Airman Haley B. Singler, 52nd Medical Support Squadron, airman
 ■ Ludwig Hahn, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, senior-level civilian
 ■ Julie Speegle, 52nd Services Squadron, mid-level civilian
 ■ Maria Checkley, 52nd Logistics Group, junior-level civilian
 ■ Tessa Hickey, 52nd Communications Squadron, 52nd FW volunteer
 ■ Andrea Feeney, 52nd Medical Group, Red Cross volunteer
 ■ Staff Sgt. Jason E. Vinson, 52nd SFS, resource manager
 ■ Senior Airman Duwayne L. Melton, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, foreign object damage fighter

Third quarter group-level nominees: 52nd Fighter Wing command group

■ 1st Lt. Robert Shipp, 52nd FW Manpower Office, company-grade officer
 ■ Joanne Ware, 52nd Comptroller Squadron, junior-level civilian
 ■ Master Sgt. Jeffrey VanScoy, 52nd Comptroller Squadron, senior NCO
 ■ Tech. Sgt. Ruel Rafi, 52nd FW Plans Office, NCO
 ■ Airman 1st Class Kevin Moye, 52nd CPTS, airman
52nd Logistics Group
 ■ 1st Lt. Jean-Jacques Futey, CGO
 ■ Laura Hammock, mid-level civilian
 ■ Maria Checkley

■ Master Sgt. William Brown
 ■ Staff Sgt. William Crawford
 ■ Senior Airman Donnie Brown, airman
 ■ Staff Sgt. James Weston, maintenance professional
 NCO
 ■ Senior Airman Lee McKinstry, maintenance professional airman
52nd Medical Group
 ■ Capt. David Cantwell, 52nd Dental Squadron, CGO
 ■ Melissa Lindstrom, 52nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron, mid-level civilian
 ■ Donna Cormier, 52nd Medical Operations Squadron, junior-level civilian
 ■ Master Sgt. Robin MacCubbin, 52nd DS, senior NCO
 ■ Staff Sgt. Jody Yeager, 52nd MDSS, NCO
 ■ Senior Airman Haley Singler
52nd Operations Group
 ■ Capt. Alex Ralston, 22nd Fighter Squadron, CGO
 ■ Cindy Simpson, 52nd Operations Support Squadron, civilian
 ■ Master Sgt. Jeffrey Hamilton, 23rd Fighter Squadron, senior NCO
 ■ Tech. Sgt. Ann Thompson, 606th Air Control Squadron, NCO
 ■ Senior Airman Daniel Solesbee, 22nd FS, airman
 ■ Capt. Lee Kloos, 22nd FS, instructor pilot
 ■ Capt. Neil Oakden, 23rd FS, flight lead
 ■ Capt. Jared Johnson, 22nd FS, wingman
 ■ Staff Sgt. Michael Richards, 81st Fighter Squadron, dedicated crew chief
 ■ Staff Sgt. Timothy Mauldin, 22nd FS, senior maintenance professional
 ■ Airman Edward Smith, 23rd FS, junior maintenance professional
52nd Support Group
 ■ Capt. Jill Metzger
 ■ Ludwig Hahn
 ■ Julie Speegle
 ■ Carmen Reich, 52nd CS, junior-level civilian

■ Master Sgt. Kenneth E. McClure, 52nd CES, senior NCO
 ■ Staff Sgt. Tyrone Morgan, 52nd SFS, NCO
 ■ Airman 1st Class Brian N. Gudmundson, 52nd SFS, airman

Professional Officer's Course Early Release Program selectees

■ Staff Sgt. Luis Gallardo, 52nd Component Repair Squadron
 ■ Staff Sgt. Michael Hickman, 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron (Provisional)

IDEA program \$600 award

■ Master Sgt. David Nearbin, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron

\$400 award

■ Tech. Sgt. D'anna Amponin, 52nd Logistics Squadron
 ■ Staff Sgt. Thomas Jones, 372nd Training Squadron

\$200 award

■ Master Sgt. John Van Duser, 52nd CRS
 ■ Tech. Sgt. David Grassie, 372nd TRS
 ■ Tech. Sgt. Paul Sights, 52nd EMS
 ■ Tech. Sgt. Mitchell Shimmel, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron
 ■ Tech. Sgt. Brian Schmidt, 52nd CRS
 ■ Tech. Sgt. Alan Tolksdorf, 52nd Logistics Group
 ■ Staff Sgt. Jacques Samedy, 52nd Mission Support Squadron
 ■ Staff Sgt. David Rogala, 52nd CRS
 ■ Staff Sgt. Christopher Sislow, 52nd CRS
 ■ Staff Sgt. Scott Flanders, 52nd LG
 ■ Staff Sgt. Jennifer Wessner, Air Force News Agency
 ■ Airman 1st Class Alexandra Ravens, 52nd EMS
 ■ Airman 1st Class Donn Lemay, 52nd CRS

Open season starts for civilian TSP Thurs.

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas

— Civilian employees will soon have an opportunity to participate or change their contributions in the Thrift Savings Plan during open season Thursday to Jan. 31. TSP is a voluntary retirement savings and investment plan for federal civilian employees which offers before-tax savings and tax-deferred earnings.

Contribution limits set by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board are based on an employee's retirement system. Beginning this open season, and effective in January, the following contribution rates apply:

Federal Employees' Retirement System employees may contribute up to 12 percent of their basic pay each pay period with the government providing matching funds of up to 24 percent. The government also automatically contributes 1 percent to the employee's account each pay period whether the employee contributes or not, bringing the maximum government contribution to 5 percent.

Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System may contribute up to 7 percent of their basic pay each pay period, but do not receive any agency contributions.

Because of a recent change in federal law, the amount FERS and CSRS employees may contribute will increase by 1 percentage point each year through 2005, then contributions will be restricted only by the Internal Revenue Code's annual limit, currently \$10,500 for 2001 and \$11,000 for 2002, Thomas said.

All AFPC-serviced civilian employees must make their TSP contribution elections (amount an employee wants to contribute from his or her basic pay) or changes through the BEST automated phone system at (800) 997-2378 or Web application by Jan. 31. Hearing impaired employees may contact BEST by calling TDD (800) 382-0893.

Overseas employees will dial a toll-free AT&T access number for the country they are in. Counselors are available Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CDT. The BEST employee benefits information system Web application is located at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EB.IS.htm.

Contribution allocations are made directly with the Thrift Savings Plan by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP Web site at www.tsp.gov.

Specific information on the TSP funds is available from the Thrift Savings Web site or the BEST homepage. (Air Force Print News)

Stop-Loss exemptions may be limited

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — As the end of the planned 30-day Stop Loss evaluation approaches, officials are saying the list of career fields to be released from Stop-Loss restrictions, if there is one, will likely not result in many people being allowed to leave the service in the near future.

Hopefully this month, the Air Force will decide if there is an opportunity to exempt any career fields, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

When mission requirements can be filled without a need for Stop-Loss, the Air Force plans to end the program with the maximum amount of flexibility and allow those people a smooth transition out of the Air Force, officials said.

"But we don't know when that's going to be," said Lt. Col. Mike Gamble, AFPC assignment programs and procedures division chief. "Nobody does."

"Right now, because of the double-tasking of homeland defense and force protection, combined with overseas operations and deployments, there are relatively few people who aren't

involved," Gamble said. "We really need to remember the unique feature of this operation is the homeland security requirement — something we haven't focused on before. We need to determine the load all these demands are placing on the force and that is why we are proceeding with caution."

After Air Force officials announced Stop-Loss in late September, retirements and separations were indefinitely suspended starting Oct. 2.

April 30 and May 1 were listed in some official correspondence for administrative reasons, giving rise to rumors that Stop-Loss had been extended to one of those dates, officials said.

"There has been no change in the policy, but the April and May dates have made it into the rumor mill," said Lt. Col. Rich Binger, chief of separations. "The fact is Stop-Loss continues and no end dates have been set."

For more information on Stop-Loss, visit the AFPC home page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil. (Air Force Print News)

Fall means time for parent-teacher conferences

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — What is it about sitting in a too-small chair with knees banging on a too-small desk listening to your child's teacher speak about the little apple of your eye that makes grown adults want to raise their hands before speaking?

It's that time of year again — parent-teacher conferences have rolled around. But, education experts insist, teachers aren't to be feared. And with a little preparation, the conferences can be very fruitful.

Preparation and an open mind are the keys to a successful conference, said Mary Patton, coordinator of Pupil Personnel Services for the Department of Defense Education Activity. PPS is the department that oversees school counselors, psychologists, nurses and social workers.

"Remember it's in the child's best interest for the parent and the teacher to be on the same side," Patton said.

Gen. Gregory Martin, U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander, believes so strongly in the benefit of these conferences and parental involvement in children's education he issued a command-wide policy that parent-teacher conferences are a place of duty.

Before the conference, Patton said, parents should sit down with their child and "discuss what's happening at school." Parents should make a list of their child's responses and be prepared to discuss the list at the conference, she said.

Some things parents should ask their children are: What subject does the child enjoy most? Which subject is especially easy or difficult?

To keep nervousness to a minimum, Patton said it's also important to keep children informed along the way.

"Share the list with your child, and let him know you will discuss the conference

with him after it's over," she said. "If the teacher says it's OK, having the child with you in the conference is a good idea, particularly if it's a conference where you know you need to make an improvement plan for your child's performance."

During the conference, parents should keep an open mind, Patton said, and always start with something positive. If parents get to a conference and haven't armed themselves with a positive comment, they should take a second to look around the classroom.

"Most teachers work very hard to make a nice, warm atmosphere for your child to work in," she said. "You can always mention that."

Conversely, teachers should always have something positive to say about their students. "If the teacher doesn't tell you something positive about your child, ask," Patton said.

Parents should share their list with the teacher and make sure they let the teacher know the child was involved in making it. Then they should ask to see examples of their child's written work.

Patton said it's also important for parents to let teachers know about any family crises that may come up. This lets the teacher

know something unusual may be bothering your child.

"In a time of crisis it is important for the parent to share information on how the crisis is affecting the family and the child," Patton said. "The parents should be as up-front and

honest as possible with the teacher and counselor so the best education plan can be developed to help the child learn during a crisis."

She noted children can react in many different ways to stress and grief, and it's important for teachers to know what the child might be going through.

Some other areas to inquire about, if applicable, are:

■Homework policy.
"Especially if

your child doesn't seem to be handing in the homework," Patton said.

■Grading system. She pointed out grading systems change from area to area.

■Is the child performing on grade level? "Especially during the first conference, it's good to know whether or not your child is reading and performing math on grade level," Patton said.

■Special programs. "If the student's having trouble learning, maybe it's worth looking at an evaluation for a learning-disabilities class," she said. "If English is a

second language for either the student or the parent, that should be looked at, and gifted and talented programs are something else to consider."

■Social skills. "Sometimes children who have not been around a lot of other children at an early age don't really relate well to other children," Patton said. "It's difficult if they don't know how to share and play."

Before they leave the conference, parents should review what was said with the teacher, Patton said. "Sometimes what we say and what we hear are a little bit different," she said.

She said some parents find it helpful to take notes during the conference. "You've come in with a written list, it's a good idea to go out with one," she said. This makes it easier for parents to share what happened at the conference with their children.

Parents should always discuss the conference with their child and point out the positive things that were said first, Patton said.

"Your child is already nervous thinking the teacher is going to tell mom or dad all the negative things," she said. "Your child needs to know that parent-teacher conferences aren't necessarily a negative thing, that they're meant to help him."

Sometimes issues arise that can't be resolved by just talking to the teacher, or perhaps the teacher is part of the problem. "First, try to solve the problem with the teacher," Patton said. "If you can't solve it with the teacher, it's fair to tell the teacher that you feel like you need intervention."

That intervention should probably first come in the form of the school guidance counselor, Patton said. "Ask the guidance counselor what to do," she said. "It might even be a good idea to have a conference with the guidance counselor and the teacher."

Local conferences

Parent-teacher conferences for Eifel area schools take place today, Tuesday and Wednesday. The following is the schedule for each of the five schools:

■Spangdahlem elementary - All day today. For more information, call 452-6881.

■Spangdahlem middle - All day, Wednesday. For more information, call 452-7259.

■Bitburg elementary - All day Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information, call 452-9215.

■Bitburg middle - Morning appointments and open session in the afternoon Wednesday. For more information, call 452-9310.

■Bitburg high - All day Wednesday. For more information, call 452-9202 or 452-9337.

distribution system replacement continues along Maxwell Boulevard.

Start date: October 2000

Completion date: Water storage facility, mid-December; entire project, April 2003.

Current impact: The new water storage facility will add capacity to the water system for fire fighting and new facilities associated with base's northwest expansion under the Rhein Main initiative. Replacing base water lines eliminates dead-ends in the distribution system and gives civil engineers the ability to isolate breaks in the line without having to shut off water distribution to other parts of the base.

(Editor's Note: SPANGDAHLEM under Construction is a periodic update of projects around the base. The goal is to inform people of facility upgrades, road construction, detours and renovations, and how it impacts base employees and residents. 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron members provide the column information.)

Project: Repair of Spangdahlem Air Base's water storage tanks and continued replacement of the base water distribution system.

Location: The water storage tanks are located behind the Eifel Lanes bowling center. Water

Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey
Spangdahlem Air Base's water storage tanks are currently being repaired. The tanks are located behind the Eifel Lanes bowling center.

Military Equal Opportunity

Resolving issues before they become problems

By Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

She sat wrapped in her Gortex jacket despite Staff Sgt. Felix Marin's offer to hang up her coat for her. Marin, a wing military equal opportunity counselor, suspected it was because she wanted to protect her identity - he noticed she had even removed the rank insignia from her jacket before entering the office.

The concern in her voice led Marin to believe the problem she sought his guidance on was very personal to her. He listened closely, never knowing who she was, but pleased he could help. She had come to the right place.

Military Equal Opportunity human-relations technicians counsel Team Eifel members who have experienced sexual harassment or unlawful discrimination based on their race, color, sex, religion, or ethnicity. They also offer advice on how to resolve non-discrimination office conflicts.

"We're here to ensure active duty and their family members have an even playing field and are allowed to excel based on their capability and merit," said Capt. Castle Smith, 52nd Fighter Wing MEO chief.

MEO helps the wing do this by providing complaint processing, education, climate assessment.

Counseling

Conflict resolution is MEO's most critical role, according to Smith.

"I tell people suffering in hostile environments, such as sexual harassment because of offensive jokes, to speak up because that's the only way people will understand the behavior is unacceptable," said Tech. Sgt. Thomas Koenig, 52nd FW MEO technician.

But MEO technicians understand that not everyone knows where to go to concerning

harassment and how to properly address the problem, Koenig said.

Air Force equal opportunity offices favor a counseling method called "informal assistance." This solution offers clients advice on working issues using their chain of command. It works. Of the 52 informal assistance issues MEO worked in fiscal 2001, none developed into a higher-level case.

MEO counselors also offer advice on what works and how, based on case histories, Smith said.

"Sometimes whether the problem gets solved quickly or not depends on the way the problem is approached," he said. "Being forceful and demanding a solution may cause more problems in some cases. It may help in others."

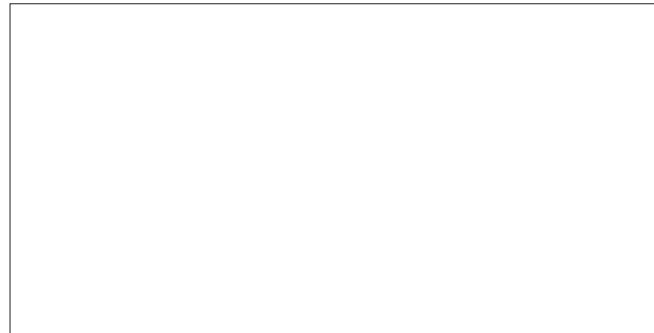
During counseling, MEO technicians ask about specific examples of discrimination, which took place.

"Sometimes we find the discrimination was simply perceived as unlawful," said Master Sgt. Marcus Sharpley, 52nd FW MEO superintendent. "But, as they say, perception is reality, and as counselors we offer ways of breaking down perceptions through communications coaching, if that's the case. If this doesn't work, technicians can offer other methods for solving the problem."

The typical desired end result is to simply stop the offensive behavior, which sometimes takes time and patience, he said.

Unit Assessment

MEO technicians visit wing offices to conduct unit climate assessments and gather information from surveys available on the base intranet. Technicians gather information sent anonymously and mask the data to protect individual identification, Sharpley said. The data provides MEO technicians and the wing commander valuable information concerning the wing's climate.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Karen Z. Silcott

Master Sgt. Marcus Sharpley, military equal opportunity superintendent, teaches a first-duty station human relations class at Spangdahlem Air Base recently. Air Force MEO offices changed names when Air Force officials altered its mission. As of March 1999, the office no longer conducts drug testing. This streamlining allows its members to focus solely on equal opportunity education, human relations climate assessment and issue resolution.

"Our job isn't just handling complaints. Our job is to identify and resolve issues before they become complaints," he said.

Using assessment information, MEO technicians can identify problem areas and offer unit leadership some possible solutions, he said. Sometimes the answer is as simple as educating members on specific human-relations issues.

Education

All newcomers attend mandatory instruction as part of inprocessing. The Air Force trains new airmen on equal opportunity programs as they enter the service and MEO conducts "refresher" training at their first duty station. MEO also provides a shorter mandatory German-culture primer and refresher training for all other Spangdahlem Air Base newcomers.

The Spangdahlem office even offers tailored education to meet commander's

requirements. One example is supervisors' training, which focuses on interpersonal communication skills, understanding cultural diversity and gender differences.

Helping base employees find solutions and improve office relations, the MEO library offers more than \$9,000-worth of books and video tapes specializing in ethnic diversity and human-relations issues. To borrow a video or book, all people need to do is ask, Smith said.

Prevention is the MEO technician's preferred method of dealing with problems, according to Smith. Through education and assessment, MEO members help supervisors and commanders prevent human-relations problems before they become complaints. However, when people experience discrimination, MEO counselors are available to offer advice to the victim and the chain of command on how to solve issues and improve mission effectiveness for Team Eifel.

Spangdahlem Air Base MEO

People can visit the 52nd Fighter Wing MEO Office in Spangdahlem Air Base building 151, or call 452-6391 for information or to make an appointment.

The MEO resource library includes books and videos about:

- Human relations
- Mixed-gender teams
- Personal values studies
- Racism
- Sexual harassment
- Living overseas
- Cross-cultural counseling
- The Civil War
- The Holocaust
- Gender communication skills
- Gender differences in the workplace
- Hispanic, Hawaiian, Native American, Irish, Jewish, African-American history
- German, French, Eastern Asian and American customs
- Age discrimination
- Personality studies
- Human relations studies for youth
- Youth peer issues
- Cultural studies
- Diversity training
- History
- American civil rights movement
- Sexual equality struggle

Staff Sgt. Felix Marin, MEO advisor, analyzes unit climate assessment results.

In the classroom

DoDDs hot line

Parents with immediate concerns should address them with the school principal or superintendent. However, when issues remain unresolved, parents can call Department of Defense Dependent Schools at 338-7670 or email dodds_Europe_hot line@eu.odedodea.edu.

People can also call the Headquarters European Command Quality-of-Life Division 24-hour hotline at 430-6121 or e-mail the office at schools@eucom.mil with concerns.

School board meeting

The Eifel school board public meeting takes place at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 20 in the Bitburg Middle School auditorium. School officials encourage parents to attend.

Call Audrey Burkel, 52nd Support Group schools liason officer, at 452-6942 for more information.

Book fair

The Spangdahlem Elementary School Parent, Teacher, Student Association fall book fair takes place 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday in the school gym. Call Dawn Peterson at 452-6881 for details.

SMS PTSA

A Spangdahlem Middle School Parent, Teacher, Student Association membership meeting takes place at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the school library. Call the school office at 452-7205 for details.

Clothes collection

Bitburg High School collects used clothing and children's items for a local women's shelter. Drop off items with the school nurse or call Elke Zschaebitz at 453-7937 for details.

At Your SERVICE

SPANGDAHLEM

Chapel

- ▶ Catholic Mass: 11:45 a.m. Wednesday-Friday; 5 p.m. Saturday; and 9 :30 a.m. Sunday
- ▶ Confessions, 4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment
- ▶ Catholic religious education, 11 a.m. Sunday
- ▶ Protestant Sunday worship: 11:15 a.m.
- ▶ Protestant Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.
- ▶ Korean worship, 1 p.m. Sunday

Commissary

- ▶ Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Main exchange

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Child development center

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 6 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

BXtra (shoppette)

- ▶ Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Gas station

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Outdoor recreation

- ▶ Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Airmen's Attic

- ▶ Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bowling center

- ▶ Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
- ▶ Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-midnight
- ▶ Sunday, noon-9 p.m.

BITBURG ANNEX

Chapel

- ▶ Catholic Mass: 9:15 a.m. Tuesday and 11:30 a.m. Sunday
- ▶ Catholic religious education: 9:45 a.m. Sunday
- ▶ Confessions, 10:45 a.m. Sunday
- ▶ Protestant Sunday worship: 8:15 a.m. liturgical; 9:35 a.m. contemporary; and 1 p.m. Gospel
- ▶ Protestant Sunday school: 11:30 a.m.

Child development center

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 6 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Commissary

- ▶ Monday, closed
- ▶ Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Shoppette

- ▶ Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Furniture store

- ▶ Monday, closed
- ▶ Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Main exchange

- ▶ Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Gas station

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Car care center

- ▶ Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, closed

Airmen's Attic

- ▶ Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Oberweiss Annex

Pet spa

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Community Mailbox

Spouses meeting

The 52nd Communications Squadron Spouses Group meets at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 16 in the Spangdahlem Air Base Chapel. Call Deanne George at 06569-960805 or Patty Hutson at 06553-900331 for details.

ITT trips

Information, tickets and tours, and outdoor recreation offers tours and activities throughout the week. People should register for trips at least three days in advance. Call 452-6567 or 452-9437 for details on ITT trips and outdoor recreation at 452-7176 for details on activities.

Talent show

King Citadel Military Lodge "Nite at the Apollo" takes place at 7 p.m. Nov. 23 in the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center. Tickets cost \$7. Call Tech. Sgt. Raul Wilshire at 452-6866 for more information.

Singers wanted

Wing chapel services needs choir members for a Christmas concert taking place at 7 p.m. Dec. 16 in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. Rehearsals take place 6:45-8:45 p.m. each Wednesday in the Bitburg Annex Chapel now through Dec. 12. Call the Spangdahlem Air Base Chapel at 452-6711 for more information.

Thanksgiving worship service

Worship services take place at 6 p.m. Nov. 18 in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. People are encouraged to bring a desert for fellowship time after the service.

Call the base chapel at 452-6711 for details.

Sign language club

A sign language club meets 6-8 p.m. Thursday in Bitburg Annex building 2001. Call Michelle Venzke at 452-9491 for details.

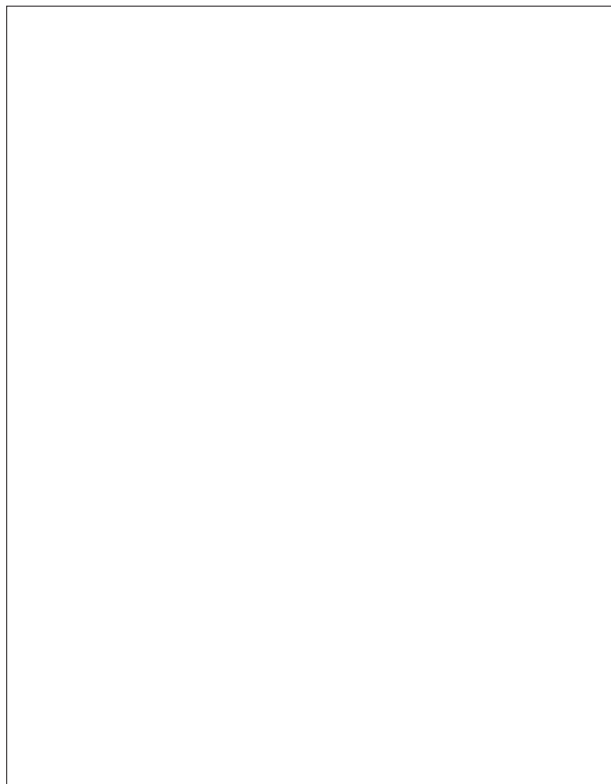
New moms

The La Leche League meets at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 17 in the Bitburg Annex hospital conference room. League officials invite new mothers interested in and currently breastfeeding. Children are welcome. Call Margaret Loffelman at 06565-7555 or Alice DeFoe at 06561-683893 for details.

Chili cook-off

A Team Eifel Top 3 chili cook-off takes place 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 17 in the Bitburg Annex exchange parking lot. Contest officials award prizes for the hottest edible, best tasting and most original chili recipes. Donations for bowls of chili go to the Red Cross Unified America Fund. Contest entry is free.

Call Senior Master Sgt. Dolly Witt at



Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

Craft Corner

Evelyn Groesser, quilting instructor for the skills development center, works on a dresden plate at the Craft Corner in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. The Bitburg Annex Chapel opens each Tuesday at 3 p.m. for quilting and other crafts. For more information, call 06565-958753.

452-6039, Master Sgts. Tracey Rickey at 452-8375, Andre Mason at 452-6604 or Paul Cole at 452-6367 to register.

Education news

■Embry-Riddle University offers a six-day class on research methods and statistics starting Nov. 16. Call 452-7553 or the university office in Spangdahlem Air Base building 131 for details.

■The DANTES External Degree program offers associate through master degrees through correspondence learning. Review the DANTES catalog on the program Web site at <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/dl/>.

■First-term airmen who enlisted May 5, 2000, or after may qualify for the College Loan Repayment program.

Call the base education office at 452-6063 or visit the office in Spangdahlem Air Base building 131 for more information.

Flower shop

Spangdahlem Air Base Flower Shop hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. The shop is closed Sunday. Call 06565-933991 for more information.

Retiree information

Retiree Activities Office hours are 4-8:30

p.m. each Friday in Spangdahlem Air Base building 23. RAO representatives act as a liaison between active-duty and retired Air Force members. Office officials also seek volunteers.

Call retired Tech. Sgt. Gary Hackl at 452-4248 or 452-4020, or e-mail 52FW.RAO@spangdahlem.af.mil for more information.

Thrift shop

Penny Lane thrift shop hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and each second Wednesday monthly. The shop also opens 3-5 p.m. each Thursday.

Top 3 meeting

Spangdahlem Air Base 's Top 3 meets at 3 p.m. Nov. 16 in the Saber Club. A social follows after the meeting. Call Master Sgt. James Rosel at 452-6112 for more information.

Public speaking

Eifel Toastmasters, a club designed for improving personal communications skills, meets at 10:30 a.m. each second Saturday and each fourth Thursday monthly in the base community activities center. Call Ralph Jones at 06371-917570 for details. Club information is also available on the Toastmasters International Web site at www.toastmasters.org or www.district59.de.

Family support

The following classes take place in Bitburg Annex building 2001. Call 452-9491 to register or for more information.

■Great expectations for new parents, 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

■Tap seminar, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Nov. 16. Wear civilian attire.

■Resume writing, 8-11 a.m. Nov. 20.

■Couples communication, 6-8 p.m. Nov. 20.

■European job seekers, noon to 1 p.m. Nov. 26.

■Career profiling, 1-3:30 p.m. Nov. 27.

■Book club, 6-8 p.m. Nov. 27.

■Home buying, 6-8 p.m. Nov. 29.

■Newcomers' Trier by train trip, 7:45 a.m. Nov. 30 at the Bitburg Annex commissary parking lot.

Thanksgiving dinner

Moselle Dining Halle serves Thanksgiving dinner 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 22. The meal is open to active-duty, family members and retirees. Menu includes roast turkey, baked ham, cornbread dressing, assorted vegetables and pies. Call 452-6727 for more information.

Youth art contest

The base youth center art contest and display takes place Dec. 3-7. Deadline to enter is Nov. 21. Officials judge artwork in four age divisions and 10 art categories. Winners' artwork advances to regional competition. Entries are limited to one per person. Call 452-9163 for more information.

Parents' break

The Give Parents a Break program takes place 6:30-11:30 p.m. Nov. 16 and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 17. Call 452-5320 for details.

Holiday show

The USO and Band of the Air Force Reserves presents Operation Seasons Greetings at 4 p.m. Nov. 21 in the base fitness center. Call 452-7260 for more information.

Mini bazaar

A winter mini-bazaar takes place Nov. 30 through Dec. 2 in the base community activities center.

Call 452-7260 or 452-7381 for more information.

Historical march

The World War II Society Europe Battle of the Bulge march around Bastogne, Belgium, takes place Dec. 22. Buses depart Spangdahlem Air Base at 5 a.m. and Bitburg Annex at 5:30 a.m. and return at about 7 p.m. the same day. Cost of \$38.50 includes round-trip transportation, tour guide, march certificate and commemorative gift. Registration deadline is Dec. 7.

Call Ed Lapotsky, event coordinator, at 06507-802616 or 06507-8292, or e-mail ed.germany@t-online.de to register or for more information. People may also attend World War II Society Europe meetings at 11 a.m. each Friday in the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center.

Viewpoint

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Nov. 9, 2001

Commander's thoughts

Experimenting just one time with drugs invites jail time, dishonorable discharge

By Maj. Inez Sookma
52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
(Provisional) commander

Imagine if you would it's Friday evening, the weekend's finally here. Your buddies across from your dorm balcony just invited you to join them for the night — there's a new bar they heard about with great dance music. Sure, "sounds good," you say to yourself. "I've worked hard this week ... I need a break. Let me get cleaned up, I'll be down in a minute."

Even better, one said he'd be the designated driver. What a deal! So you pile into the car with all your other buddies and suddenly you're on the autobahn headed toward Maastricht, somewhere in the Netherlands.

Three hours later, you're

standing at the bar enjoying your fourth drink and the great music, when one of your buddies holds out his hand to give you something. "You have to try this, man! You'll be able to dance all night. It's 'X' (slang for ecstasy). No one will ever know — it will be out of your blood stream before Monday morning."

You may say to yourself now, while sober, "I don't have anything to worry about, I'd never do drugs!" But, what is your reaction after you've had several drinks?

The appeal of taking something so small and seemingly harmless might be overpowering. You want to be "in" with your new friends; you want to relax and feel good; and you especially don't want them to think you're a chicken. Plus,

your "friends" would never tell on you!

Wrong — your "friends" will drop the dime on whomever it takes to save their own skin when they're looking at facing two to five years in jail.

From a squadron commander's perspective, in nearly every drug case I have reviewed, the suspects when questioned by the Office of Special Investigations readily gave up the names of all individuals they had drug contact with.

During the past year in my squadron alone, we've had nine people receive an Article 15 or courts-martial for charges of use, possession and distribution of ecstasy. Of those cases, all were found guilty and received punishments ranging from reduction

in rank to two years in prison.

Did you know experimenting with just one pill of ecstasy, even for the first time, is considered "use," and is punishable under Article 112a of the UCMJ and could get you five years in jail and a dishonorable discharge? Did you know that simply passing a pill of ecstasy to another person is considered "distribution," and could get you 15 years in jail and a dishonorable discharge?

Bottom line, if you have taken, or are considering taking ecstasy or any other drugs to make you "feel good," think twice! Do you really have to be stoned to impress your friends? Is it worth it to you to throw away your Air Force career over a brief moment in time just to feel good? You decide.

Direct Line

Old license plates

Question: Since we are operating under heightened force protection measures now, I see no better time to ask this question — why do we still have the old U.S. Army, Europe, vehicle license plates? I have been at Spangdahlem for a year now and I have been asking myself this question ever since I registered my car.

I received an e-mail at work the other day stating base stickers from the United States were against regulations for force protection reasons, yet the old license plates are not? These plates stick out like a sore thumb and can be seen a mile away. I don't see why they are even an option anymore.

While I'm sure if they are taken away and everyone has to spend an extra \$5 a year for plates someone will complain, still \$20 is cheaper than anywhere in the states that I have seen to register a car.

Answer: While I strongly recommend using the new plates, which conform better to the European style, currently all U.S. members in Germany have the option to purchase either the old-style or new European-style license plate when they register or renew their vehicle. The old plates are being phased out and once they are gone, the new Euro-style plates will be the only ones available.

It's possible to register a vehicle in the German system; however, the process is expensive and only family members can use this option (call pass and registration at 452-6187 for

details). These vehicles aren't authorized gas coupons or the use of base gas pumps.

I'm also concerned with things we do which highlight our vehicles. We have a habit of placing bumper stickers on our cars which highlight us as Americans and many leave their last base of assignment stickers plainly posted on their windshields which you correctly pointed out is a violation of policy.

Many also leave high-value items, including credentials used to gain base access, in plain view on the vehicle seat or floor.

All of us need to be conscious of the anti-terrorism and force protection measures we can take to protect our families and ourselves. Thanks for proving the installation is constantly thinking AT/FP — keep it up!

Child care

Question: My wife and I both work 12-hour shifts — one starts at 5:30 a.m. and the other at 5:30 p.m. The problem we've had is in finding child care starting at 4:30 a.m. We've contacted numerous child-care providers with the earliest start time of 6:45 a.m. and latest end time of 6 p.m. I've told my flight chief, but he said, "it's not my problem and fix it if you want to stay in the Air Force."

Is there anything that can be done to accommodate child-care needs for dual shift workers? It seems as though we're always forgotten.

Answer: First off, you are not forgotten! Family Child Care has a program to help you with your child care needs. The Extended Duty Child Care Program assists military families working extended hours by increasing the hours of care available in Air Force-licensed FCC homes.

The program offers care in FCC homes beyond the standard 10-hour child-care day or five-day workweek. Parents can drop the child off in the morning and the provider will transport the child to the child development center, school-age program or another FCC home when those programs open. In the evening, they can pick children up when these programs close and keep them in their home until a parent can pick them up.

Spangdahlem Air Base has two Extended Duty Child Care providers, one on the Bitburg Annex and one on the base.

The cost for parents currently using the CDC or SAP is pro-rated per hour based on their current weekly fee. No one pays more than \$2 per hour, and until Nov. 24, the program is free! You can pick up the required forms at the CDC, SAP or the FCC offices.

For more information and to schedule days and times for care, call the FCC office at 452-9022.

Finally, it appears your supervisor may have demonstrated less than the appropriate level of concern and involvement to a subordinate's needs. If this was the case, I wholeheartedly recommend you raise the issue to the next level using the appropriate chain of command.

Eifel Times

www.spangdahlem.af.mil

Spangdahlem Air Base
Germany

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Capt. Angela Johnson.....Chief, Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero.....Internal Information
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People may submit articles for publication in the *Eifel Times* to the public affairs office, building 23. **Deadline for submission is 10 days prior to desired publication date** and noon Mondays for weekend sports. Submission of articles by deadlines does not guarantee publication. All articles are considered for publication. Time and space constraints, as well as style, dictate article allocation. The *Eifel Times* staff edits all articles prior to publication.

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Photos are property of the U.S. Air Force unless otherwise noted. The Rumor Control Hotline is 452-6833.

Col. Greg Ihde

Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a way to get answers to questions you still have after using your chain of command.

Direct Lines of general interest will be published in the *Eifel Times* and may be edited or paraphrased for brevity or clarity. Submit your Direct Line via:

- DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil
- Mailed to 52nd FW/PA, Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE 09126
- To public affairs in building 23.
- Concerns may also be sent via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are accepted. To receive a personal response you must include your name and phone number. Call the *Eifel Times* at 452-5244 for more information.

Number of days since last DUI:

As of Thursday

11

You have a choice.
Call Airmen Against
Drunk Driving
at 452-2233.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. More movie synopsis information is available at:
www.aafes.com/europe/eur_mov/snop.htm

Bitburg Castle

Today

Zoolander (PG) -- Ben Stiller

Zoolander, a supermodel, is targeted by a dangerous crime organization that wants him to carry out some plans. Suddenly, Zoolander has to think fast. But with his head in the clouds, Zoolander has trouble thinking at all.

Saturday

Zoolander

Sunday

The Princess Diaries (G) -- Julie Andrews

Teenager Mia Thermopolis is thrown for a loop when she learns the astonishing news that she's a real-life princess! She must make the biggest decision of her life, whether to remain with her family or leave everything behind to accept the royal responsibilities that come with being the Princess of Genovia.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

American Pie 2 (R) -- Jason Biggs

The summer after their first year at college, the boys rent a beach house and vow to make this the best summer ever. As it turns out, they discover that times change and people change, but in the end it's all about sticking together.

Thursday

American Outlaws (PG-13) -- Colin Farrell

As Confederate soldiers in the Civil War, the James boys and their cousins the Youngers, became expert killers who were able to live off the land for long periods of time and practice attacking their enemies' supply lines. The gang would later use the skills they gained from the war against railroads and banks.

Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

Joy Ride (R) -- Jessica Bowman

On a road trip from Colorado to New Jersey, Lewis gets saddled with his older brother, Fuller. Their on-the-road pranks get the brothers sucked into a nightmare when a psychotic truck driver takes offense. What started out as a joke ... now the joke is on them.

Training Day (9:30 p.m., R) -- Denzel Washington

Alonso a corrupt veteran cop, escorts Jake a rookie, on his first day with the Los Angeles Police Department's tough inter-city narcotics unit. The only thing more dangerous than the line being crossed, is the cop who will cross it.

Saturday

Joy Ride**Training Day (9:30 p.m.)**

Sunday

Bubble Boy (PG-13) -- Jake Gyllenhaal

A coming-of-age comedy following the life of Jimmy Livingston, a young man born without immunities and raised in a manufactured world provided by his well-intentioned but misguided mother. When his girlfriend rushes off to Niagara Falls with her new fiancé, he builds himself a bubble suit to help him travel fast and sets out on a cross-country trek to find her and win her back.

Monday

Training Day

Tuesday

Joy Ride

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 452-9441.

Local children honor Saint Martin

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Each November, local townspeople host a colorful torchlight procession in honor of St. Martin.

"Sankt Martin ist ein guter Mann" (St. Martin is a good man) is only one of the many songs parents have been practicing with their children to prepare them for the procession.

Who is the man celebrated for his goodness every year?

According to legend, Martin was born early in the fourth century to a military officer in the military administration of the Emperor Constantine in Szombathel, Hungary. He led a good Christian life while growing up and then served his time in the Roman imperial army. Although other officers mistreated soldiers and slaves, Martin was kind and distributed what he could save from his pay to the poor.

While riding outside the gates of Amiens, he encountered a freezing beggar who asked for help, but Martin had already given all his pay to the poor. He drew his sword, cut his tunic in two and gave half to the beggar.

The following night, Christ appeared to Martin and said, "What you have done to the least of my brothers, you have done to me." Martin felt the Lord's love and was baptized. After serving two more years in the army, he retired with full honors.

Although Martin was rather modest, his devotion, kindness and fairness were such that his fame spread throughout the country and he was soon appointed as bishop. Martin served as the Bishop of Tours in France for 25 years until he died at 82.

This year St. Martin's Day is Saturday, but the dates for processions may vary from town to town and take place a day earlier or later.

Germans celebrate St. Martin's Day with a procession where children carry candles or battery-operated lanterns through the town. In some towns, firemen lead the parade with torches in hand, followed by the town band and then a "St. Martin" on horseback, clad in the uniform of a Roman legionnaire. The children sing St. Martin songs.

The colorfully illuminated procession ends with a huge bonfire. "St. Martin" then asks the children to follow his lifestyle and hands each a large sugar pretzel.

In some towns, the traditional ceremony ends with an opportunity to win a goose, the "St. Martin's Gans," and other prizes, usually at a well-known spot in town, a hall or the local fire station.

Tickets for the raffle are usually sold at the door by members of the local fire departments. A limited number of tickets can also be purchased at the fire station prior to the raffle.

The goose became associated with St. Martin's Day because this time of the year is when the goose fattening period ends. After the summer harvest, farmers let the geese find their food on mowed fields. The only cost to the farmer is tending to the geese. But as soon as it gets cold, farmers sell or kill the superfluous geese. Parsons demanded geese as payment for the taxes due to them at this time and the custom developed into a tradition of eating goose on St. Martin's Day.

American families are

Gisela Schmitt, a Spangdahlem village resident, holds son, Daniel, as they wait with friend, Mike Gerten, for Saint Martin to appear on horseback.

Iris Reiff

welcome to participate in St. Martin parades in either their town or any other village. People can ask their landlords or local mayors for details about the date, time and starting point of their town's St. Martin's Day procession.

Most parades kick off between 6 and 7 p.m. Since it often gets cold at night this time of the year, it's advisable to wear warm clothes. Lanterns can be purchased at German stores now at low prices. They're usually available as animals, especially the St. Martin goose, moons, churches and other motifs. Some parents

help their children make their own lanterns. Children who go to German kindergarten usually make them. Sometimes prizes are given away for the nicest homemade lanterns.

Spangdahlem village hosts a Saint Martin parade at 6 p.m., Sunday. The meeting point is Burgstrasse, located near Auto Heinz, a road close to where people exit Spangdahlem village to go toward Gransdorf.

Bitburg Moetsch hosts a parade at 7 tonight from the local church while Bitburg-Stahl hosts a parade at 5:30 p.m., Saturday from the Gemeindehaus or local town hall.

BHS duo earns 1st tennis honors in past 4 years

By Pete Vadney
Bitburg High School tennis coach

Teammates Josh Sparkman and Ryan Warner gave Bitburg High School its first All-Europe selections in four years at the DODDS-Europe tennis championships Oct. 27.

The doubles standouts and two BHS single's players returned to the indoor confines at Wiesbaden where they all placed a disappointing third in the Department of Defense Dependent Schools Division II tournament earlier in the month.

With 22 DODDS-Europe schools represented in the championships, some larger and some smaller than BHS, a repeat performance of the divisionals would amount to a victorious showing.

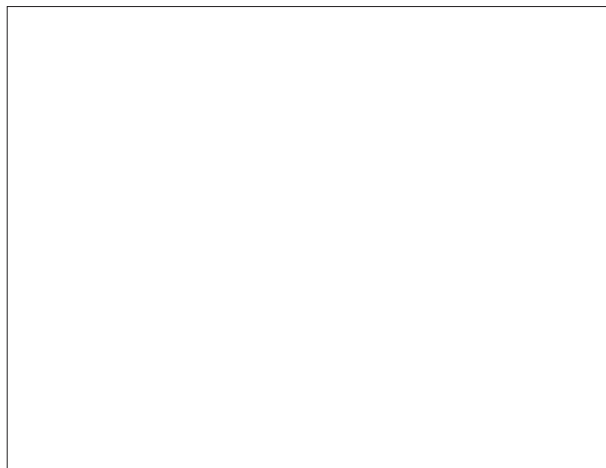
Sparkman and Warner, with only one loss this season, had the best shot at a European title. As the No. 2 seed, they earned a first-round bye. They walked all over their quarterfinal match against Heidelberg 6-1, 6-0. Rival Allied Forces North put them in an early 6-2 hole in the semifinals. The duo clawed back into the match winning the next set 7-5 only to fall 6-4 in a close third set.

The loss set them up for a shot at a third-place finish. Taking third from Bad Aibling 8-3 earned Sparkman and Warner their All-Europe selection.

Courtney Martz and Jordan Matthews both had success in the early rounds of the singles championship before falling to No. 1 seeds.

Martz pushed aside her Giessen opponent 6-2, 6-3 then fell to eventual tournament runner-up Necat Akman from Izmir in straight sets 6-0, 6-0. In the consolation bracket, she beat Iva Libichova from Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe 8-2 in a pro set. Beth MacIntire of Hohenfels ended Martz's quest by squeezing out an 8-6 win.

Matthews' boy's singles play eerily mirrored that of Martz. He beat Alan Sale of London Central 6-1, 6-2 before falling to two-time European champion Oliver Steil of AFNORTH. Steil shredded him in straight sets 6-0, 6-0. In the consolations, Matthews defeated a determined Francis Weinstrop from Naples 8-5 before falling prey to John Mackey of Heidelberg 8-6.



Staff Sgt. Esperanza Berrios

Flash back

Anwond Boykin, 52nd Operations Support Squadron team, elludes Kevin Clauson, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron team, during the intramural flag football championship game Oct. 30. EMS beat OSS 20-18 for the 2001 title. The teams had to play twice, with EMS winning both.

High school volleyball team nearly pulls off huge upset

Two players make All-European squad after almost beating three-time champs

Compiled from staff reports

Keri Ihde and Casey Kahle earned All-Europe honors following Bitburg High School's second-place finish in the DODDS-Europe volleyball championships at Mannheim recently.

First-year coach Bill Mittenzwey and his six starters nearly pulled off the biggest upset in any Department of Defense Dependent Schools championship as they almost dethroned Division II powerhouse and now three-time European champion Black Forest Academy.

"We played them twice during the

season and didn't score more than five points," Mittenzwey said. "We weren't given much chance to beat them, but we had nothing to lose."

Apparently, nobody told seniors Kahle and Jenny Coleman, sophomore Ihde, and juniors Katie Carr, Cristi Mittenzwey and Jessica Wood.

Playing the entire match, the scrappy squad scared Black Forest Academy 14-16, 16-14, 14-16, 10-15.

"It's been called one of the most exciting finals in the history of the volleyball tournament," Mittenzwey said.

For the past three years, DODDS has held a Division II tournament and BFA has won it each time. With Black Forest Academy losing six players to graduation to BHS' two, Mittenzwey fervently hopes both teams meet again next year.

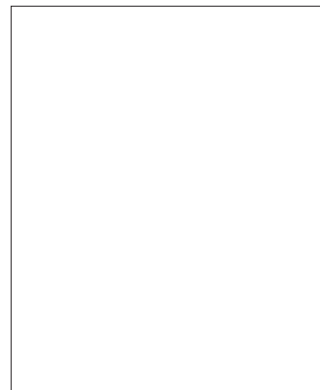
Eifel sports world

Sabers vs. USAF team

Spangdahlem Air Base's men's varsity basketball team plays the U.S. Air Force team at 6 p.m. Saturday in the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center.

"It's not only a chance for us to put the events of Sept. 11 on the 'back burner' for at least one evening, but also a change for Spangdahlem's sports program to let people know just who the Sabers are," said coach Maurice Washington.

"This should be the highlight of the basketball season," he said.



Staff Sgt. Esperanza Berrios

A Spangdahlem Kicking Chickens player tries to control the pass from a teammate while Bitburg Rapids defenders converge during the final game of the youth soccer season Oct. 27.

Olympic soccer development

Advanced youth soccer players, ages 11-18, are eligible to take part in a local Olympic Development Program 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$75 per person.

While the program exists at Ramstein Air Base, Heidelberg, Stuttgart and other bases throughout Europe, this is the first time it's offered here.

Organizers hope to create a district team for advanced players in the Eifel, as well as offer a higher level of training, said Ryan Wilson, volunteer coordinator.

For more information or to register, call Wilson at 06561-949180 or 452-3539.

Youth sports registration

Youth age 12 and older are eligible to take part in wrestling. Registration begins Monday and costs \$25 per child. For more information or to register, call the Spangdahlem Air Base Youth Center at 452-7545 or the Bitburg Annex facility at 452-9408.

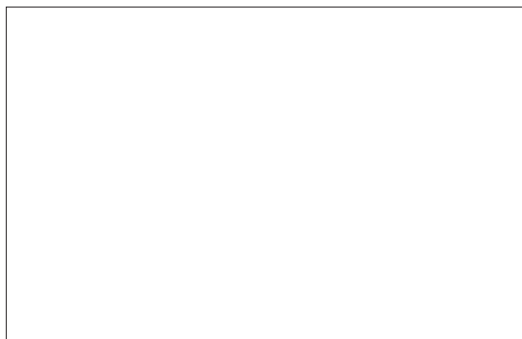
Upcoming youth sports seasons are:

■Basketball: Dec. 1-Jan. 26.

■Indoor soccer: Feb. 16-March 23.

■Baseball and softball: May 4-June 15.

Game take place on Spangdahlem AB in the middle and elementary school gyms, and the youth center; the middle school gym on the Bitburg Annex, except baseball. Games take place every Saturday.



Ethan Lake

All knotted up

Jason Loukides, a 2001 World Team and U.S. World Cup wrestler, shows Bitburg High Schoolers Daniel Brunal and John Dittig a takedown move at a recent wrestling clinic at Wiesbaden. Loukides and teammate Keith Sieracki held the clinic before competing at the Greco-Roman World Cup in Paris this past weekend. The two U.S. Army soldiers are ranked No. 2 and No. 1, respectively, in the United States in their weight classes. The clinic was open to all Department of Defense Dependent Schools students. Five BHS wrestlers attended. "I think it's great athletes of their caliber took the time to work with kids and share their knowledge," said senior Jacob Smith, a two-time All-European wrestler. The high school wrestling season begins Monday.